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BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

— 1954 —

ON THE


HEALTH OF MAIDSTONE

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C.,
M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.



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MAIDSTONE :
YOUNG & COOPER LTD., PRINTERS, BANK STREET

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1954

*To, The Worshipful The Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Maidstone.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the Honour to present to you my Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Maidstone, for the Year ended December 31st, 1954.

The promotion of a state of positive health in the community, which has been the aim of the Public Health Services of the country and in which the Local Authorities have played a notable part can be measured by such indications as the fall in the death rate, the reduced infantile and maternal death rates, the reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis and the virtual elimination of diphtheria, but there is further evidence of the improved physical health of the population in such happenings as the accomplishment of the long-awaited 4 minute mile. That athletic records of long standing should be demolished and the new records again surpassed may surely be taken as evidence of improved physical standards in the new generation and for such improvement, the Public Health Services may fairly claim some credit.

During 1954, the health of the Borough has been good: the death rate compares well with the rate for the whole country and is slightly below that for the County Boroughs and Great Towns. Maidstone was happily free from acute polio-myelitis in 1954 and the number of cases of scarlet fever fell to 21, none of which necessitated admission to hospital. Chicken-pox and whooping cough were prevalent among the children, but the notifications of measles fell to 5. I am happy to record that the maternal death rate for the year is " Nil " and for the 4th consecutive year, there has been no case of diphtheria in the Borough.

Housing has made further progress and a beginning has been made in the demolition of unfit houses in the district, but progress in the abolition of unfit houses can only be made in conjunction with the provision of new housing and the needs of the growing population of Maidstone cannot be overlooked.

To the Borough Council and particularly to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, I would express my thanks for their continued interest and support and to the Staff of the Health Department for their loyal and enthusiastic co-operation, and,

I have the Honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
13, Tonbridge Road,
Maidstone.

July 26th, 1955

Health Committee, 1954.

CHAIRMAN. Alderman A. H. Clark, M.P.S.
VICE-CHAIRMAN. Councillor Norman Bond.
MEMBERS Aldermen Mrs. Relf, and Lyle, Councillors
Brittain, Boardman, Morling, Crispin,
Foreman, Parker.

- - -

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE MAIDSTONE CORPORATION.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

P. Jacob Gaffikin, M.C., T.D., M.D.,
B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR:

W. A. N. Baker, O.B.E., M.C.

*F.R.S.I., Certificate, Inspector of Meat
and Other Foods. M.I.P.C.*

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS:

Geoffrey Adams,

*Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.,
Certificate, Inspector of Meat and Other
Foods.*

R. A. R. Key,

*Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.:
Certificate, Inspector of Meat and
Other Foods.*

H. Moule,

*Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.:
Certificate, Inspector of Meat and Other
Foods.*

John Arnold,

*Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.:
Certificate, Inspector of Meat and Other
Foods.*

Brian Willis,

Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.

CLERKS: M.O.H. Office:

Miss Christiana Lott (until 13-10-54).

Mrs. L. Thurlow (from 27-9-54).

Sanitary Inspector's Office.

Mrs. Stangroom,

Mrs. Jones,

Miss Pickup (until Sept., 54).

Miss B. Fowler (from 8-11-54).

General Statistics.

AREA :—6,194 acres.

POPULATION :—Census 1921—37,448. Census 1931—42,259.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 1954 :—

For calculation of Birth and Death Rates, etc. 54,540.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1954) 15,426.

RATEABLE VALUE :—£509,963.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE :—£2,050.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate ...	356	385	741
Illegitimate ...	23	18	41
			} 782
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—			
			Crude 14.33
			Corrected 13.75
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales ...			15.2
for 160 County Boroughs & Great Towns ...			15.2
for 160 Smaller Towns ...			14.9
STILLBIRTHS :—Male 15, Female 5. Total 20.			
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...			24.93
Still birth rate per 1,000 population ...			0.36
for England & Wales ...			23.5
for 160 County Boroughs & Great Towns ...			23.3
for 160 Smaller Towns ...			24.0
DEATHS ...	Male 317	Female 341	Total 658
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population—			
			Crude 12.07
			Corrected 11.58
„ „ for England & Wales ...			11.3
„ „ for 160 County Boroughs & Great Towns ...			11.1
„ „ for 160 Smaller Towns ...			11.3
Deaths from Puerperal causes: (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List) :—			
			Rate per 1,000 total Deaths. (Live and Still) births
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	Nil		Nil
No. 30 ...	Nil		Nil
Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age :—			
All infants per 1,000 live births ...			23.01
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births ...			24.29
Illegitimate „ „ „ „ „ „ ...			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...			98
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...			Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...			1
„ „ Measles (all ages) ...			Nil

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

In previous Reports, I have made mention of the geographical and geological features of the Maidstone district and the prevailing meteorological conditions and these do not warrant further description but the factors which have, in the past, contributed to the growth and even to the existence of the County Town,—its position at the first easy crossing of the Medway and on the highway from London to the coast ports—still combine to make it a busy and prosperous town. The local industries have continued to flourish: the foremost and most important being the vital industry of agriculture and in the industries of paper-making, brewing, engineering and the manufacture of food products and confectionery, there has been prosperity and expansion, and fresh industrial ventures have been established. It was not without reason that when the Borough obtained a grant of Arms, the motto selected should be “ Agriculture and Commerce ” for it is on these two pillars that the prosperity of Maidstone is established.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Although the Borough Council is no longer responsible for many of the services of which it was formerly in control, some being now included in the National Health Service and some transferred to the County Council, I think that the interest shown by the Corporation and especially by the Health Committee, warrants my inclusion of a short note on these services in my Report.

SCHOOL CLINICS. These are now part of the service provided by the County Education Committee but there is still close liason between the School Medical department and the Borough Health Department and I am glad to record that the measures taken to ensure closer co-operation between the General Practitioners and the School Medical Service have been effective though I should welcome a closer liason between the family Doctors and the Health Visitors and School Nurses.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES. These clinics are part of the County Council Service and there is a close link between these Clinics and the local hospital .

HOSPITALS. All the hospitals in the area are now administered by the South-East Metropolitan Hospital Board and the Mid-Kent Hospital Management Committee and the consultant services have been expanded, with increased facilities for X-ray examinations and laboratory investigations. Like other hospitals in the country, the local hospitals have suffered from the shortage of nursing staff: full use of the available beds has however been maintained and the Fant Lane Hospital has been used for cases other than infectious disease. Additional provision for orthopaedic cases is required and for a long-term policy of hospital extension, there is ample space at the Linton Hospital. Full use has been made of the Maternity Ward at the West Kent Hospital and I still regret that when the Maidstone Corporation added this ward to the Hospital, the number of beds was not made greater.

BIRTHS NOTIFIED DURING 1954.

Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	782
Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

The number of live births shows an increase over 1953 of 5 and the still-births an increase of 2.

HOME AND DOMESTIC HELPS. This is one of the services provided by the County Council and has been of the greatest possible assistance in many cases. Many of the cases of chronic sickness the elderly infirm and disabled, are able to remain in their own familiar and loved surroundings, when, without this assistance from the home help service, the only possibility would be to seek a vacancy in the institutions and homes for the aged where there is already an enormous demand for places. One of the most distressing duties which I am called on to perform is the making of application for an order for the removal to an institution and for detention there of a patient unable to care for himself or herself and without kith or kin to give support or comfort in the last years of life, and, were it possible to provide small dwelling places for such old folk, equipped so as to involve the minimum of labour, and an extension of the home-help service to provide the requisite assistance, the necessity for many of these old citizens ending their life-span in institutions, could be avoided. The hospitals for the care of the sick were formerly provided by the generosity of the community and benefactors were many: now that hospitals are provided by the National Insurance scheme, a channel for the benevolence, which is natural in the British people and which

will always be part of our social system however firmly the "Welfare State" becomes established, lies open in the provision of suitable and convenient dwellings for the solitary and incapacitated old folk.

TUBERCULOSIS AND CHEST CLINIC. This is now part of the National Health Service and the Chest Physician for the area is equipped with complete facilities for the investigation of suspected cases, including X-ray examinations. Recent advances in the chemo-therapy of tuberculosis have given results by clinic treatment which are comparable with those only formerly obtainable in sanatoria and the prospect of cure in early cases is better than ever before but tuberculosis is a preventable disease and improved housing and better living standards will be the most effective weapons in the war against this disease.

VENEREAL DISEASE. The Clinic at the West Kent Hospital continues to give good service and the Health Committee has co-operated in the publicity needed to make known the facilities for diagnosis and treatment which are available.

SKIN DISEASES. The services of a Consultant Dermatologist are available at the West Kent Hospital.

EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS. I cannot give any accurate estimate of the incidence of epilepsy and cerebral palsy in the Borough; treatment and specialist advice is obtainable through the hospital service and the local branch of the National Spastics Association is working to encourage and assist re-habilitation measures for these handicapped members of the community.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION. The work of the N.S.P.C.C. in Maidstone has, as in former years, been continued with close co-operation with the County Health Department and in particular the Health Visitors, and the Borough Health Department. Child neglect and ill-treatment are not faults to which British parents are naturally prone; far more often these are symptoms of family unhappiness and despair. The Inspector of the N.S.P.C.C. stated to me in the past year his conviction that the family is the important unit and that most of the cases of child neglect can be saved if the family, as a unit can be kept together and rescued from shipwreck, and with this view I am in agreement. The shortage of houses is a factor in the break-up of some marriages and in the causation of child neglect,

and this can only be met by the provision of more houses, but a house does not automatically become a home, nor does the lack of a house pre-suppose that home life must be absent. The modern restlessness and the search for interest or amusement away from the family centre, tend to the weakening of the concept of the family as a unit and child neglect is most frequently found in households where family life is deficient.

CARE OF THE OLDER POPULATION. It is a measure of the success of health provision in this country that the expectation of life has made a great increase, but it also inevitably means that, with the smaller families which are now so much the rule, the proportion of older people in the population is steadily rising. While it is true that the aged need not now fear actual want, the prospect of long empty years of waiting for the end is a dreary one and I am in sympathy with the idea that, if possible, occupation should be found for older men and women who are fit and willing to continue work. The age of compulsory relegation to the side-lines should be the physiological, not the chronological one. In Maidstone, a most interesting experiment was made by Messrs. Sharp, Ltd., in the employment of a number of old men and women for a time, in the packing of confectionery, which proved to be a great success and I am led to hope that Maidstone might be one of the places to follow the lead which has been given in Finsbury, for the provision of opportunities for employment for old people, still able and anxious to make some contribution to the national prosperity.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The area of the Borough of Maidstone, and also certain parts of the adjoining Rural Districts of Maidstone, Hollingbourne and Malling, are supplied with water from the Maidstone Water Company, the estimated population supplied by the Company being, at the end of 1954, 64,750. It is also estimated that nearly 99% of the population within the Company's area is furnished with a piped water supply.

In previous Reports I have mentioned the sources, springs, wells and reservoirs which have been established and measures taken to patrol the gathering grounds. During 1954, the works at Farleigh were re-constructed by the provision of a storage

reservoir to hold 300,000 gallons with new pumping plant and chlorination plant. These works, which were the original source owned by the Company, had been out of use until 1933, when additional supplies became necessary and temporary works for the sterilisation of the water and pumping into the newer reservoirs were installed. These works have now been replaced by a permanent installation with provision for the chlorination of the water and for the removal of residual chlorine.

Further new works to secure an additional supply are in process of construction at Hocker's Lane, Detling and the estimated yield from this source is estimated at 600,000 per day. Sterilisation of the water at the Hocker's Lane Pumping Station will be by ozone, as at the Boxley Works.

The greatest care is taken to ensure the purity of the water supplied. Samples are taken monthly for bacteriological analysis and these examinations are carried out by the Company's analysts and also at the County Laboratory.

The annual consumption of water supplied by the Company, as at December 31st 1953, is 995 million gallons made up by domestic consumption 638 million gallons and trade consumption, 357 million gallons, which is the equivalent 42.1 gallons per head per day, of which 27.0 is " Domestic " and 15.1 the consumption of the many and varied industries in the area which the Company serves.

I give in the following Table, a statement of the average results of regular chemical analyses of the water during the year:—

Average Results, 1954	BOARLEY STANDPIPE	COSSINGTON SPRINGS	FORSTAI WELL	FARLEIGH ENGINE HOUSE	COSSINGTON WELL	BOXLEY WELL	BOXLEY BOREHOLE	HOCKERS LANE BOREHOLE
	Parts per 100,000							
Total Solid Residue	39.6	34.9	56.7	51.0	19.8	32.5	27.6	35.2
Chlorine	2.66	2.32	4.38	3.40	2.15	2.25	2.31	3.20
Nitrogen (Nitrates)	.36	.30	.23	.52	.05	.10	.03	.46
Nitrogen (Nitrites)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ammonia Saline	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ammonia Albuminoid	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Iron	Nil	Nil	Nil	.002	.002	Nil	.066	.001
Oxygen Absorbed (½ hour at 27°C)	.007	.005	.006	.017	.006	.003	.005	.007
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hours at 27°C.)	.025	.010	.011	.010	.009	.006	.011	.016
Total Hardness	27.2	24.8	39.9	33.2	13.4	24.1	12.7	18.9

In the great majority of the houses in Maidstone, water from the public supply is available inside the houses but there are still groups of houses,—happily not many,—where the supply for the households is from stand-pipes, to which the inhabitants go for water. The arrangement is not satisfactory: I am glad to say that the number of houses so supplied is not large and is gradually being reduced. The present number of houses so supplied is 76, a reduction of 12 from 1953, and the number of stand-pipes is 18, while the inhabitants of these houses number 239. The clearance of unfit and unsuitable dwellings in the town, which is gradually being effected, will remove this defect in the provision of water supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The sewage disposal works have continued to operate as in previous years and during 1954, no extensions to the works have been made, but with the growth of the Borough and the numbers of new houses which have been built, with the further building which is envisaged, expansion and enlargement of the disposal works will become imperative, especially if, as has been proposed, sewer extensions in the areas of neighbouring Authorities are to be linked up with the Borough sewer system and the disposal works. The tidal portion of the river Medway, below the town is seriously affected by the discharge of sewage effluents and, even though this part of the river is tidal, adequate purification should be secured.

During 1954, the following extension to the system of sewers in the Borough have been made:—

Soil Sewer 6" diameter	...	...	...	...	944 yards
" " 9" "	...	...	...	...	2,490 "
Surface water sewer	...	...	...	...	4,329 "

RIVERS AND STREAMS. In previous Reports I have drawn attention to the state of the river Medway and its tributary, the Len and to the pollution of these streams. I am glad to be able to record that with the co-operation of the industrial firms concerned, measures for the prevention of pollution of the Medway by trade waste have been adopted and that a considerable improvement has been the result. In this connection, appreciation of the work of the industrial firms concerned must be expressed and I rejoice at the improvement that has been obtained. If elimination of the pollution of the river, above and below the town, can also be secured, the state of the Medway will be vastly improved. Consideration has also been given

to the condition of the river Len and proposals have been made which, if it is possible to carry them out, should obtain an improvement in the deplorable state of this stream.

CLOSET ACCOMODATION. Most of the houses in the Borough are equipped with water closets and are connected to the sewers, but there are parts of the Maidstone area in which the sewers are not available and their extension is not a practicable or economic proposition. Some houses, with a water supply but where no sewer is available have water closets discharging into cess-pits and a few earth closets still remain. Pail closets have to be used in some places but these are gradually being reduced in number.

I give below the number of dwellings having the various types of closet accommodation:—

Properties with W.C.'s discharging into the sewer system	15,562
Properties with W.C.'s discharging into cess-pits. ...	330
Properties with earth closets or privy middens ...	18
Properties with pail closets ...	71

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. The Chief Sanitary Inspector has furnished the details of the work done in the year under review, which are set out in the accompanying Tables. Inspections and re-inspections have been regular and frequent and there has been less difficulty in securing that the necessary work is carried out. The preliminary inspection of houses in the area, in order to make an estimate of the number of houses to be included in the 10-year programme of slum clearance has been made, but the rate of progress which can be made is dependent on the number of houses which can be allocated to the re-housing of the inhabitants of these unfit houses. In many houses the lack of repair and maintenance which was inevitable in the war years and since, has caused deterioration of older properties to the point where they are beyond saving and for such, demolition and the provision of new houses for the occupants, is the only remedy.

Annual Report, 1954.

Bakchouse inspections	18
Chimneys repaired	27
Cement sinks removed and glazed provided	12
Cooking Stoves renewed or repaired	59
Dairies and Milkshops inspected	31
Common Lodging House inspections	47
Coppers repaired	19
Drains cleansed on complaint or by flushing staff	1,376
.. choked and cleansed	1,043
.. reconstructed	15
.. tested with smoke	67
.. tested with water	34
.. inspection chambers provided	19
.. inspection chambers airtight covers provided	5
.. stoneware pipes laid, feet	654
.. iron pipes laid, feet	18
.. trapped from sewer and ventilated	5
Dustbins provided	14
Factory, workplaces and outworkers' premises inspected	289
Fresh air inlets provided	—
Grates renewed or repaired	43
Houses, cement floors provided in cellars	—
.. floors to living-rooms provided or repaired	17
.. chuting or guttering repaired or renewed	259
.. roofs repaired	843
.. rooms where dirty or loose paper has been removed and	
.. walls and ceilings repaired and distempered	576
.. walls made dry by insertion of damp course or other	
.. method	64
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Diseases	96
Inspection of houses on complaint or otherwise	3,927
Re-inspections	8,146
Mortar joints to brickwork repaired	76
Miscellaneous defects remedied	12
Outbuildings or Washhouses repaired or rebuilt	7
Poultry or animals removed	4
Public Houses inspected	84
Restaurants and Cafes inspected	27
Schools inspected	5
Sink or other wastepipes removed, disconnected or trapped	17
Sinks, new channels provided or repaired	13
Stairs repaired	31
Stoneware gullies provided	8
Strainers provided to gullies	4
W.C.'s, Walls and ceilings repaired	123
.. flushing apparatus provided or repaired	104
.. new pans and traps provided	43
.. structural defects remedied	52
.. seats	17
Water supplies provided or repaired	22
Window frames repaired	134
Verminous rooms cleansed	273
Yard pavement repaired or provided in connection with houses	4
Preliminary Notices served	632
Statutory Notices served	30

(f) **Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

(1).—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories with Mechanical Power	272	4	—
Factories without Mechanical Power	49	—	—
Other premises	11	—	—
Total	332	4	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Factories Act 1937 and the Public Health Act, 1936:				
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage Floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Accommodation. Unsuitable or Defects	5	3	—	—
Not Separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factories Act, 1937 :				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse (s.54)	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding Offences relating to the outwork and Offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer or Powers Order, 1921).				
Total	5	3	—	—

(g) Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byc-laws.

These are as follows :—

Common Lodging Houses	4
Slaughter Houses	3
Houses let in Lodgings.. .. .	6
Dairies	3

Housing.

During 1954, the number of new houses erected in the Borough was 336. Of these 217 houses were erected by the Local Authority and 119 houses were provided by private enterprise.

The following Table gives the housing statistics which are asked for:—

HOUSING STATISTICS.

I.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,204
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	1,523
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subsection (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	—
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	—
(3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	726
II.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	632
III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.	
A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	14
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	1
B.—PROCEEDING UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	16

Housing Statistics—(continued).

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(a) by owners	16
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—
C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	12
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	19
D.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 AND SECTION 3 (1) OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1949	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—
E.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 10 (1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953	
(1) Closing orders made	1
IV.—Housing Act, 1936—Part 4—Overcrowding.	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year Indeterminable	—
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ..	—
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ..	—
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	18
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	17
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	97
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—
V.—Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.	
Certificates applied for	16
Number granted	15

The waiting list for houses on the Council's Housing Estates is still a long one and we appear to be as far as ever from overtaking the need for new houses. Overcrowding is still far too common, but it is not possible to give an estimate which could claim any degree of accuracy for fresh cases are constantly arising. Nor are the regulations which have been issued as a standard by which overcrowding can be measured, according to the number of rooms and the permitted number of occupants, of much assistance for overcrowding is a social rather than a physical condition. The commonest cause of the overcrowding of houses is that the young folk embark on marriage,—and who can blame them,—in the hope of obtaining a house and, in the meantime, having failed to find rooms, which are almost unobtainable in Maidstone, make their home with the parents of the boy or girl. These cases are always difficult and are more so when the grandchildren arrive, though I am full of admiration of the way in which, in most cases this situation is accepted and endured, for until the young couple have a family, the hope of obtaining a Council house is small. To have to spend the first years of married life in rooms, or on sufferance in the home of "In-laws" is apt to change love's young dream into a nightmare of disillusionment: much has been said and written on the subject of broken marriages, but the wonder is that the number of failures is not greater and that the love and loyalty of these young couples, and the patience of their parents, endure so well. More rapid building of more houses is the solution and the experiment which has been tried by some Authorities of devoting a proportion of the new houses to give homes to "Newly-weds," is worth investigation.

Verminous Dwellings.

During the year 1954, the following work in the eradication of bugs and other vermin in houses was carried out:—

(a) Council Houses found to be infested	...	5
(b) Other Houses found to be infested	...	63
Council Houses disinfested:—		
(a) By gassing	...	5
(b) By spraying and the burning of insecticides...	—	—
Other Houses disinfested:—		
(a) By gassing	...	33
(b) By spraying and the burning of insecticides...	...	30
Verminous households fumigated before removal to a		
Council House or during transfer to another Council house	28	
Council Houses inspected and found clean	...	203
Other Houses inspected and found clean	...	141

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The various articles of food, intended for human consumption come from near and far and for the protection of the public there exists a vast system of inspection and supervision. One vital link in this chain is the inspection of the meat which is slaughtered locally and here we are fortunate in the fact that all the Inspectors, save one are qualified Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods. The effect of the concentration of all the local slaughtering in three slaughter-houses is that we are able to maintain 100% inspection of all meat intended for human consumption, which was not possible when a number of small private slaughter-houses were in use throughout the town.

Unfortunately, the existing slaughter-houses are by no means what is to be desired, being badly situated, and inadequate in space and equipment. I have urged in previous reports that the provision of an up-to-date abattoir, with the necessary facilities for any investigation required, and adequate lairage and storage, is urgently needed and for such an establishment a suitable site is available convenient to the Maidstone market and easily accessible by road and rail, but the sanction for the provision of this abattoir has not yet been obtained and the whole problem is the subject of report by an Inter-Departmental Committee. Such an abattoir is essential for the needs of the area: it is to be hoped that there will be no needless delay and that a return to the system of scattered and inadequate private slaughter-houses will be avoided.

The number of carcasses inspected and the amount condemned in 1954 are as follows:—

	Cattle ex- cluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed ..	1710	617	947	4571	5256
Number inspected ..					
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBER- CULOSIS.					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	2	69	57
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	341	143	16	317	241
Percentage of the number in spected affected with tuber- culosis	20.0%	23.5%	1.9%	8.5%	5.7%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned	9	11	3	—	17
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	137	31	1	—	50
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	8.5%	6.8%	0.4%	—	1.3%

During 1954, foods of various descriptions, in the following quantities were found to be unfit for human consumption. This unfit food, which in every case was surrendered, included the following:—

1954.

Ham, tinned— 4 cwts. 2 qrs., 7 lbs.					
Milk, tinned	..	..	..	..	7,696 tins
Peas, tinned	..	..	..	..	894 tins
Fruit, tinned	..	..	..	..	8,276 tins
Vegetables, tinned	..	..	..	..	1,342 tins
Soup, tinned	..	..	..	..	724 tins
Meat, tinned—4 tons. 7 cwts., 2 qrs., 13 lbs.					
Fish and Fish Paste	..	..	..	..	1,320 tins
Fish, fresh	..	..	..	..	49 stones
Beans, tinned	..	..	..	..	671 tins
Cheese..	..	..	..	..	372 lbs.
Eggs	..	..	..	..	1,927
Jam	..	..	..	..	196 jars and tins
Sweetmeats	..	..	..	..	22 lbs. 4 ozs.
Fresh and Dried Fruit	..	..	..	..	417 lbs.
Rabbits, fresh	..	..	..	..	114 lbs. 7 ozs.
Bacon	..	..	..	..	1 ton, 3 cwts., 5 lbs.
Puddings, tinned	..	..	..	..	44
Chicken, fresh	..	..	..	..	21
Pies	..	..	..	..	64
Cakes	..	..	..	..	76
Beverages	..	..	..	..	12 bottles
Sausages	..	..	..	..	414 lbs.
Cereals	..	..	..	..	39 lbs.
Biscuits	..	..	..	..	40 lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS, 1954. During the year the following samples of Food and Drugs were taken for analysis and the results are recorded below:—

Article	Number of Samples Obtained	Number Genuine
New Milk	85	79
Margarine	1	1
Table Jelly	1	1
Aspirin Tablets	2	2
Golden Raising Powder	1	1
Saccharin Tablets	1	1
Zinc Ointment	1	1
Soup Powder	1	1
White Pepper	1	1
Malt Vinegar	1	1
Canned Milk	1	1
Table Cream	2	2
Camphorated Oil	1	1
Coffee and Chicory Essence	1	1
Sausages	18	18
Sugar	1	1
Flour	1	1
Pudding Spice	1	1
Sardines	1	1
Baking Powder	1	1
Ham and Beef Paste	1	1
Blanemange	2	2
Custard Powder	1	1
Yoghourt	1	1
Beef	1	—
Joke Sweets	1	—
Dried Apricots	1	—
Sweetmeats	4	4
Dried Fruit	3	3
Tinned Lobster	2	2
Spirits	6	6
	146	137

Clean Food.

A high standard of cleanliness at every stage in the handling of all kinds of food is essential and the increased consumption of factory-prepared and ready cooked food has increased the risk of food poisoning and call for unceasing care and vigilance from the health authorities and especially from all those engaged in the preparation and handling of food of every kind. The human factor is the important one in the incidence of food poisoning; the employees in the food and catering industries are becoming aware of the danger of food contamination and a like standard of care and cleanliness in the home is most desirable. Far too often, it is found that neglect of ordinary personal hygiene is the source of contamination.

The practice of selling bread in wrappers is becoming more general and the protection of food in shops is much more general. Some shops are still woefully lacking in measures to protect food exposed for sale and the ordinary citizen can do most to ensure that improvement is obtained, by the simple method of withdrawing his custom from shops where the food-stuffs exposed for sale are not protected.

In many houses, the space and equipment for food storage is inadequate and I have been repeatedly told by the occupants of the pre-fabricated houses that the built-in refrigerator is one of the great attractions. I look forward to the day when a refrigerator will be considered as much an essential part of the equipment of a house as the cooker or the bath.

During the year, eight cases of food poisoning were notified. Seven were in one out-break and the suspected source of infection was fish and chips. Investigation at the fish-frying establishment gave no indication that contamination had occurred there and I had a strong suspicion that the food had been contaminated in the house where it was eaten.

Clean Food Campaign.

1. NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE BOROUGH	...	...	653
<i>Class</i>			<i>Number</i>
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	38
Hotels	...	...	12
School Canteens	...	...	18
Public Houses	...	...	86
Food Shops—			
Butchers	...	...	36
Fruit and Greengrocers	...	...	42
Bakers	...	...	16
Fishmongers	...	...	14
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	10
Grocers and Provision Merchants	...	...	88
Others	...	...	35

2. FOOD PREMISES, BY TYPE, REGISTERED WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITY UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, LOCAL BYELAWS, AND THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

Ice-cream manufacturers	...	...	9
Ice-cream sellers	...	(44% pre-packed)	139
Sausage manufacturers	...	...	24
Margarine, Margarine-cheese and Milk-blended Butter (Wholesale Dealers)	...	...	11
Artificial cream dealers	...	...	2
Milk Distributors	...	(Sterilised Milk—70)	80
Dairies	...	...	3

3. NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS OF REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES 907

4. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY.

Continual advice and instruction is given by Inspectors during their visits to premises, and local exhibitions play their part by affording opportunities to display clean food posters and instructional material and displays. Talks and lectures to local bodies and associations, and advertising in the press, help to keep this important matter in the public mind.

5. METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

The majority of condemned food is incinerated in the Borough's Refuse Destructor at Tovil, but where possible, it is diverted to pig swill. In some cases, where the food is recoverable, it is returned for re-processing, or sent to adjacent animal food manufacturers for their use. The usual pre-

cautions are taken in these cases to ensure that the condemned food cannot re-appear for sale for human consumption. Some condemned meat is used in the local Zoo, whilst the majority is sent for processing as glue and fertiliser.

6. EXAMINATION OF SPECIAL STOCKS.

No special stocks worthy of mention have been received in the Borough during the year.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

I give below, in tabular form, details of the cases of notifiable diseases, other than Tuberculosis, which occurred in the Borough during 1954.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Chicken-pox... ..	139	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	21	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	36	4	22
Food Poisoning ..	8	—	—
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—
Measles	5	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	240	—	—
Dysentery ..	2	2	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infc'n	—	—	—
Totals	456	6	22

Distribution of Infectious Disease Incidence, 1954.

I give below an analysis of the notifications of Infectious Disease, according to the Wards of the Borough in which they occurred.

	South	High Street	Stone Street	King Street	North	Heath	Bridge	Shep-way	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	2	2	—	1	3	2	3	8	21
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-myelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Pneumonia ..	5	1	—	4	6	5	4	11	36
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	17	21	—	14	31	33	21	103	240
Chicken-pox ..	17	2	—	1	10	49	29	31	139
Measles ..	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	5
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Food Poisoning ..	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	8
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	48	26	—	22	54	93	58	155	456

SCARLET FEVER. The character of this disease appears to have changed in recent years. In 1954, the cases which occurred were of a mild type and though 21 such cases were notified, there were no fatal cases and none were of such severity as to necessitate admission to hospital.

ACUTE POLIO-MYELITIS AND POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS. During 1954, the Borough was happily free from any case of these diseases.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA. Though any puerperal case in which there is a rise of temperature after confinement is now included in the notifications of "Puerperal Pyrexia" the number of cases notified was only two. The deaths attributable to "Childbirth, pregnancy and abortion" were "Nil."

ENTERIC GROUP OF FEVERS. No notifications of the fevers of the enteric group were received during 1954.

MEASLES. This disease had been very prevalent in the year 1950-53, but in 1954 there was a marked drop in the number of notifications, only 5 such being received. While I should not like to assert that notification reached 100% or that five cases represented the total of measles in the Borough, there was a marked decline in the incidence of this disease.

WHOOPIING-COUGH. This infection recurs with varying intensity in each year and in 1954 there were 240 cases notified, happily with no deaths. This infection is causative of much suffering and discomfort to the patients and of great anxiety to the mothers, though in some cases there is regrettable carelessness in the matter of isolation. Immunisation against whooping-cough is not as reliable as against diphtheria but the improved vaccines which have been introduced, give improved and more reliable protection. My own opinion is that immunisation against whooping-cough is valuable and that even if complete protection is not obtained, the severity of the attack is lessened in those children which have been immunised. In Sweden, I have recently seen immunisation against diphtheria, whooping-cough and tetanus combined in one series of three injections and the risk of ill-effects or of liability to subsequent polio-myelitis appears to be no greater than in the immunisation against diphtheria alone.

DIPHTHERIA. Again, I rejoice to record that there were no cases of diphtheria in Maidstone. Maidstone was formerly one of the places where this disease appeared every year and this disease had a constant place in the causes of death, while post-diphtherial paralysis was common. The following Table shows the incidence since 1920 and speaks for itself:—

1920/24	Average yearly number of cases ...							35
1925/29	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	27
1930/34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	47
1935/39	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	40
1940/44	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	17
1945/49	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	12
1950	Number of cases in the year ...							4
1951	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Nil
1952	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Nil
1953	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Nil
1954	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Nil

Diphtheria immunisation in Maidstone was introduced in 1935 and the Table above shows how successful it has been. The danger now is that with the banishment of this disease, immunisation may be neglected and with this neglect diphtheria may re-appear.

The provision of immunisation is now in the province of the County Health Department and the County Medical Officer has kindly supplied me with the following Tables.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1954.

A. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Year of Birth	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	Total
Primary Inoculations	23	341	57	9	7	14	52	41	36	17	5	1	—	—	—	603
Reinforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	—	19	171	169	78	118	182	24	5	—	1	—	767

B. VACCINATION

Year of Birth	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	Before 1940	Total
Primary Vaccination	213	121	8	2	3	2	3	3	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	15	374
Re-Vaccination	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	3	2	—	—	2	1	27	37

Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1954

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1954, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1940).

Year of Birth.	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1950-1954	104	53	268	395	695	656	725	830	488	527	507	512	447	370	23	6600
1949 or earlier	335	330	221	147	26	22	25	8	87	9	—	—	—	—	—	1210

Malignant Disease.

I give below a short Table showing the number of deaths from malignant disease in Maidstone in the past six years and also a Table showing the age-groups of deaths from this cause in 1954 from which it will be seen that this is a disease of later life. The cause and origin of cancer still elude the investigators and early diagnosis and early surgical treatment offer the best hope of saving life. The fear that leads many cases to defer seeking advice until it is too late is still far too frequently encountered for the prospect of success in surgical treatment recedes with delay. There is hope that patient research and investigation will solve the problem of the causation of cancer but until this is accomplished, the knowledge of the success which has attended early diagnosis and treatment should be made known as widely as possible.

The number of deaths from malignant disease in Maidstone during the past 6 years is as follows:—

1949	...	...	...	101
1950	...	...	...	98
1951	...	...	...	95
1952	...	...	...	106
1953	...	...	...	82
1954	...	...	...	98

Deaths from Cancer during 1954 under age groups.

Age Periods.	Male.	Female.
0—1	—	—
1—5	—	—
5—15	—	1
15—25	—	—
25—35	2	—
35—45	1	2
45—55	7	9
55—65	18	8
65 and over	20	30
Totals	48	50

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year	Nil
(ii) Number of cases in which:—	
(a) Vision lost	—
(b) Vision impaired	—
(c) Treatment continuing at end of year	—

Tuberculosis.

Statistics for 1954.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
6—15 ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
16—25 ..	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
26—35 ..	4	5	—	1	2	1	—	—
36—45 ..	11	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
46—55 ..	9	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
56—65 ..	9	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
66 and over	4	3	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals ..	41	14	2	2	6	2	1	—

All deaths from Tuberculosis were in cases which had been notified.

The preventive and after-care measures for dealing with cases of tuberculosis are in the hands of the Chest Physician for the Mid-Kent area, Dr. D. L. Pugh who has kindly supplied me with the figures relating to the number of contacts of known cases of tuberculosis which have been examined during the year and the number diagnosed as tuberculous. These figures refer to the area served by the Chest Clinic in Maidstone, which approximates to the area of the four Authorities, for which I am the Medical Officer of Health and I am glad to record that there is a very close liason between the Chest Clinic and the Health Departments of the Local Authorities.

(a) Number of contacts seen during 1954, of newly notified cases of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	220
(b) Number of contacts seen during 1954 of cases notified prior to 1954	...	...	...	...	...	558
(c) Number of contacts in (a) found to be suffering from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of contacts in (b) found to be suffering from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	3

The arrangements for the after-care of tuberculous patients and for the tracing and following-up of contacts of known cases and of deaths certified as being due to Tuberculosis, were outlined in my report for 1953 and have continued to work satisfactorily during the year under review. In the after-care of tuberculous patients and their dependents, much valuable work has been done by the Maidstone and District Tuberculosis Care Committee and the work of this body is deserving of the fullest support.

TABLE I.
1954

Causes of death.							M.	F.
All Causes							317	341
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	6	2
2	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
3	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
4	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
8	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	..	8	8
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	11	4
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	..	—	13
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	..	—	3
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	29	22
15	Leukemia, aleukemia	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
16	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	—	2
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	..	26	61
18	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	..	54	36
19	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	7	13
20	Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	80	102
21	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	..	8	14
22	Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	2	—
23	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	10	12
24	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	13	3
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	6	2
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	5	4
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	..	3	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	..	27	23
33	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
34	All other accidents	..	..	..	..	..	4	8
35	Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	..	—	—

TABLE II.

Analysis of Cases of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups, 1954.

Disease	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Total (All Ages)
Scarlet Fever ..	—	2	3	12	4	—	—	21
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Pneumonia	2	4	1	4	—	4	21	36
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	15	42	68	103	5	2	5	240
Chicken-Pox	1	16	17	99	3	1	2	139
Measles ..	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	5
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	2	4	2	8
Mening- ococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	18	66	89	220	15	12	36	456

TABLE III.

Analysis of Deaths from Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups, 1954.

Disease.	Un- der 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10- 15	15- 20	20- 35	35- 45	45- 65	65 and over	Total.
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningoco'al Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Sepsis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Puer- peral Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	8	11	22
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	8	11	22

TABLE IV.

Deaths.

Month.	Deaths apportioned to the Wards of the Borough.							Totals
	High Street	King Street	North Ward	South Ward	Bridge Ward	Heath Ward	Shep-way	
January	8	8	16	17	—	24	5	78
February	9	6	14	18	3	26	4	80
March	5	7	8	14	6	23	1	64
April	6	4	3	11	2	11	3	40
May	3	9	7	6	1	20	4	50
June	1	2	3	10	—	22	6	44
July	8	4	7	13	1	18	4	55
August	2	4	7	7	—	19	2	41
September ..	2	7	4	5	—	21	3	42
October	9	4	8	6	3	20	5	55
November ..	6	7	7	9	—	17	5	51
December ..	7	10	7	7	3	19	5	58
Totals ..	66	72	91	123	19	240	47	658

TABLE V.

Birth-Rates, Death-Rates and Analysis of Mortality in the year 1954.

	Rate per 1,000 population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population										Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	Tuberculosis	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Small-pox	Polio-myelitis (including Polio-encephalitis)	Pneumonia	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	Total Deaths under one year	
England and Wales	15.2	23.5	11.3	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.41	3.2	25.5	
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	13.2	23.3	11.1	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.45	3.5	25.2	
160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1951 Census)	14.9	24.0	11.3	—	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.41	2.0	26.6	
London Administrative County	15.2	19.8	10.7	—	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.02	—	0.01	0.48		20.7	
Maidstone Borough	13.75	0.36	11.58	—	0.17	—	—	0.04	0.00	—	0.40	0.2	23.01	

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

Cause	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births
Maternal causes, excluding abortion	402	0.58
Due to abortion	76	0.11
Total maternal mortality	478	0.69

Maidstone Borough

Per 1,000 Total Births	Puerperal Infections	Others	Total
.. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE VI.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1954. NETT DEATHS FROM STATED
CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Prematurity	8	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	8
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	1	—	—	3	—	2	—	1	6
Congenital Malformation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Causes	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Totals	11	1	—	—	12	—	3	2	1	18
<div> <div> Nett Live Births in the year Legitimate 741 Illegitimate 41 </div> <div> Nett Deaths in the year .. Legitimate 18 Illegitimate — </div> </div>										

METEOROLOGY.

TABLE VII.

MONTH.				Average Barometer.	Average Thermo- meter (Max.)	Average Thermo- meter (Min.)	Rainfall.	No. of days on which .01 fell.
January	..	..	..	29.86	43	31	1.60	16
February	..	..	..	29.56	43	32	2.10	20
March	..	..	..	29.50	52	38	2.98	18
April ..	..	..	..	29.95	57	37	.33	9
May ..	..	..	..	29.59	67	46	1.77	15
June ..	..	..	..	29.49	73	51	3.03	14
July ..	..	..	..	29.43	71	52	2.33	16
August	..	..	..	29.38	72	53	2.90	14
September	..	..	..	29.49	67	48	1.57	20
October	..	..	..	29.59	62	47	1.60	17
November	..	..	..	29.54	52	37	5.47	24
December	..	..	..	29.59	50	37	1.85	17
Average and Total for the year				29.58	59	42	27.53	200

TABLE VIII.
RECORD OF SUNSHINE DURING 1954.

Month.					Hours.	Minutes.
January	..	..	..	..	10	54
February	..	..	..	..	19	6
March ..	..	..	..	..	73	18
April ..	..	..	..	..	144	30
May ..	..	..	..	..	137	36
June ..	..	..	..	..	115	6
July ..	..	..	..	..	104	42
August	..	..	..	..	103	36
September	..	..	..	..	140	36
October	..	..	..	..	60	54
November	..	..	..	..	20	—
December	..	..	..	..	3	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	933	18

TABLE IX.

RELATIVE PROPORTION OF WIND DURING 1954.

	N.	N.E.	N.W.	S.	S.E.	S.W.	E.	W.
January ..	3	2	6	—	5	10	4	1
February ..	—	4	3	9	2	8	—	2
March ..	—	5	3	5	1	12	1	4
April ..	2	6	8	4	—	7	—	3
May ..	2	1	6	5	3	9	—	5
June ..	1	—	5	3	1	16	—	4
July ..	—	—	4	2	—	20	—	5
August ..	2	—	2	8	2	10	—	7
September ..	—	—	1	6	2	15	—	6
October ..	—	—	1	12	—	16	—	2
November ..	1	1	1	7	4	14	—	2
December ..	—	—	1	10	1	14	—	5
Totals	11	19	41	71	21	151	5	46

BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Population (estimated 1954) ..	54,540
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921) ..	8,472
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1954) according to Rate Books ..	15,426
Average Number of persons per house (1921) ..	4.6
Average Number of Persons per House (1954) ..	3.5
Area ..	6,194 acres
Density ..	8.805 persons per acre
Annual Birth Rate ..	per 1,000 population 14.33
Annual Death Rate ..	12.07
Phthisis Death Rate ..	15
Cancer Death Rate ..	1.9
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births ..	23.01
Live Births, Males, 379. Females, 403 ..	782
Deaths, Males, 317. Females, 341 ..	658
Excess of Births over Deaths ..	124

ELEVATION.—The population reside at a mean elevation of 70 feet above sea level, ranging from 20 to 250 feet.